



Local Educational Agencies Must Disseminate SARCs Effectively

Local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools are legally required to notify all parents about the purpose of the School Accountability Report Cards (SARC) and to provide parents with instructions about how the SARC can be obtained both through the Internet (if feasible) and on paper (by request). LEAs with access to the Internet are obligated to make SARCs available through that medium. The federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act also requires LEAs to make school accountability information widely available through such means as posting report cards on the Internet, providing copies of them to the media, and distributing them through other public agencies. *Even if the report cards are posted on LEA Web sites, LEAs are required to provide paper copies of the report cards upon request.*

When 15 percent or more of a school's enrolled students speak a single primary language other than English, state law requires that all notices, reports, statements, or records sent by the school or district to the parent or guardian of these students must, in addition to being written in English, be written in the appropriate primary language. In addition, federal law

requires that schools and districts communicate effectively with all parents and guardians, regardless of the percent of students who speak a language other than English. These provisions are applicable to the preparation and dissemination of SARCs. *The California Department of Education (CDE) anticipates that a "blank" SARC template in Spanish will be available for downloading by late October 2005.*

Not surprisingly in this electronic age, most LEAs choose to disseminate SARCs by posting them on Web sites. In doing so, LEAs are required by state law to provide the CDE with an accurate link to the Web site address where the LEA has posted its SARCs (by selecting [Update Your SARC Web Site Link](#) on the SARC Web site). State law also requires the CDE to maintain a centralized set of links to these LEA Web sites to facilitate public access to SARCs (at the [Find a School Report Card](#) link on the SARC Web site).

Simply posting SARCs somewhere on an LEA Web site is not enough. To ensure easy access to SARCs by parents, community members, and the general public, LEAs are encouraged to consider the following guidelines for

posting a SARC on an LEA Web site:

- Establish a SARC link on the LEA's home page.
- Maintain a SARC page with links to each school's report card and other information (such as a link to the CDE's SARC page).
- Ensure that the SARCs can be easily found using a search engine or site index.

SARC-Related Bills Continue to Survive in the Legislative Process

As of the time that this edition of the *SARCnews* was being prepared (late July 2005), the following SARC-related bills continued to be under consideration in the California Legislature:

- Assembly Bill 1609 (Liu), which would expand the career technical education programs area of the SARC, is currently pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- Senate Bill 485 (Migden), as amended on July 5, 2005, no longer contains any provision that would impact the SARC.
- Senate Bill 687 (Simitian), which would expand the salaries and expenditures areas of the SARC, is currently pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

For more information about these bills, visit the [California Legislative Counsel](#).

SARC Question of the Month

The following is the "SARC Question of the Month" along with its answer:

Q. Should a completed SARC for a particular school year be "updated" after it is published and distributed as required by law?

A. After a completed SARC for a particular school year has been published and distributed as required by law, it need not be subsequently "updated" unless the purpose of the update is to correct errors or add required information that was available to the LEA or school at the original time of publication. LEAs and schools may, at their discretion, update a completed SARC to add optional information that has become available since the report card was published.

If you have questions or comments about the topics covered in this newsletter, or suggestions for topics for a future newsletter, please contact us as indicated below.

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